

2.0 SPECIALIST UNITS & WEAPONS

"We're safe 'ere Gobbitz. There's no way da beakies can get to us at the top of dis cliff..."

Last words of Gibli the Gretchin before being overrun by Space Marine Assault troops from the Salamanders Chapter

The battlefields of the 41st Millennium are home to a vast array of extraordinary units and weapons. These can range from infantry units equipped with jump packs that allow them to fly through the air, through to heavily armoured vehicles equipped with huge macro-weapons so powerful they make a mockery of all but the very thickest armour. These kinds of units have special abilities that often break the core game rules in some way – troops with jump packs can leap over impassable terrain, for example, while units hit by macro-weapons do not get an armour save, and so on. These rules are not particularly complex and you can start using them more or less straight away. We have simply separated them off here so that they do not clutter up the core game rules.



Specialist abilities represent unique attributes for a unit or weapon. Because of this, abilities are not transferable to other units or weapons in the same formation. For example, Terminators are allowed to teleport onto the battlefield and this ability is listed in their profile in the Forces section of the rulebook. However, any other non-Terminator units in the same formation would not have this ability.

Sometimes situations will occur where some units have a special ability and others do not, raising the question of whether the ability may be used. For example, some units in a formation may be able to fire a barrage that ignores cover or has the macro-weapon effect, while other weapons taking part in the barrage do not. If such a situation occurs in a battle then you may only use the ability if all of the units taking part can use it – so the barrage would only ignore cover or count as a macro-weapon if all of the units participating in the barrage had these abilities.

Finally, unless the rules specifically state otherwise then any special abilities can be used by units belonging to a broken formation. Thus a supreme commander, for example, could still use his special abilities even if he was broken.

2.1 SPECIALIST UNITS

Some units have special abilities that allow them to 'buck the rules' in some way. This is usually because the units themselves are unusual due to their training, equipment or temperament. Any special abilities that apply to a unit will be noted on its datasheet (see 1.1.3).

2.1.1 Characters

Certain units are noted as being *characters*. These units represent important individuals rather than groups of soldiers or the crew of a vehicle or war engine. Because of this they are not represented by a separate model on the tabletop, and are instead *added* to another unit in the army. The unit the character is added to receives any weapons and abilities that the character has noted on their datasheet. For example, Space Marine Chaplains are characters that are armed with a Power Weapon (assault weapon, macro-weapon, extra attack (+1)), and have the *invulnerable save* and *inspiring* abilities. Any unit they are added to will count as having all of these things in addition to their normal weapons and abilities. Note that characters can be added to any type of unit, including vehicles and war engines.

The unit and the character must operate together throughout the entire battle. The character can be transported in any vehicle allowed to transport the unit that he joins, and does not take up an extra space. The character should be represented by a suitable model or command banner that is added to the unit he joins. Characters that are taken as an upgrade for a formation must be added to a unit from the formation they were taken as an upgrade for.



*Space Marine Bike unit
and Imperial Guard
Baneblade with character
upgrade*



2.1.2 Commanders

Some units and characters are noted as being *commanders*. Commanders can order up to three formations of troops to follow them when they make an assault, as long as all the formations have at least one unit within 5cm of a unit from the commander's formation.

Make a single initiative roll for all the formations, counting a -1 modifier if any have Blast markers. If the test is failed then the commander's formation receives a Blast marker and must take a hold action, but the other formations are unaffected (and may take an action later in the turn).

If the test is passed then all three formations may take an engage action. Treat the three formations as if they were a single formation for all rules purposes for the duration of the assault. A 2D6 roll is used to resolve a combined assault. If the attackers lose then each formation is broken. If they win then each formation receives a number of Blast markers equal to the casualties it suffered in the combat.



Space Marine Captains are commanders

2.1.3 Fearless

Some units are noted as being *fearless*. Such units are either exceptionally brave or so crazed that they will never run away even when broken (though you can choose to have them make a withdrawal move if you want them to).

Units that are fearless are immune to damage from losing an assault (both the additional hits and being wiped out if already broken), for ending a withdrawal within 15cms of the enemy, and from the damage inflicted by Blast markers if broken. Note that other units in the formation that are not fearless will be affected normally by additional hits for Blast markers or losing an assault or whatever – just don't allocate any of the hits to the units that are immune, but hand them out as normal to units that are not.

Fearless units still count as part of a formation, and so will sometimes be 'dragged along' as their formation withdraws even though they don't have to, simply in order to stay in formation (see 1.2.1). Finally, note that not needing to withdraw can mean that fearless units can end an assault still in an enemy zone of control, or even in base-to-base contact with the enemy (see 1.7.3 for details of how to deal with situations where units start an action in an enemy zone of control).



Imperial Guard Commissars are fearless



2.1.4 Infiltrators

Some units are noted as being *infiltrators*. These are allowed to double their speed when they make a charge move (and only when they charge!), and they can also ignore enemy zones of control from the formation they are charging. These two special abilities allow them to sneak past enemy units when they charge in order to attack enemy units that are further back. Note that the unit coherency rules still apply to infiltrators.



Ork Kommandos can infiltrate

2.1.5 Inspiring

Some units or characters are noted as being *inspiring*. Each inspiring unit involved in an assault adds +1 to the result roll (as long as it survives the combat of course!)



Space Marine Chaplains are inspiring

2.1.6 Invulnerable Saves

Certain units or characters receive a special *invulnerable save*. These units either have protective devices or supernatural vitality that will allow them to survive an attack that would kill another creature. To represent this, units with an invulnerable save receive a second save of 6+ if they fail their first save for any reason. They may take this second save against any form of attack, even attacks that would normally not allow a save to be taken. No modifiers ever apply to the second save.



Space Marine Librarians have an invulnerable save

II • SPECIALIST UNITS

2.1.7 Jump Packs

Some units are noted as having *jump packs*. These units are equipped with special devices that allow them to fly for short distances, usually in a series of long ‘hops’.

Units equipped with jump packs may ignore dangerous or impassable terrain as they move (they jump over it). They may not land on impassable terrain, and if they land in dangerous terrain they must take a dangerous terrain test. Units equipped with jump packs may also move over other friendly units as they move, but may not land on them. Units with jump packs are affected by enemy units and zones of control normally, and cannot jump over enemy formations.



Assault Marines have jump packs

2.1.8 Leaders

Some units or characters are noted as being *leaders*. A formation that includes any leaders may remove one extra Blast marker for each leader whenever it regroups or successfully rallies.



Ork Nobz are leaders

2.1.9 Light Vehicles

Light vehicles include any unarmoured vehicles where the crew is exposed to enemy fire, such as Ork buggies and Space Marine Land Speeders. The only difference between light vehicles and armoured vehicles is that light vehicles can be affected by AP fire as well as AT fire; in effect they count as infantry targets against AP fire and armoured targets against AT fire.

Light vehicles rely on speed and agility to protect them from enemy fire, and because of this their saving throw is based on these factors rather than the thickness of any armour they may carry. This aside, their saving throw works in exactly the same manner as the saving throw of any other unit, and will be ignored by macro-weapons, can be used against barrages, and so on.



Ork Buggies are light vehicles

2.1.10 Mounted

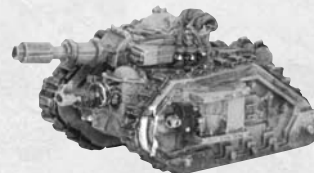
Some infantry units are noted as being *mounted*, and will either ride on bikes or living creatures such as horses. Mounted units count as vehicles for terrain effects, and as infantry units for all other purposes.



Space Marine Bikers are mounted troops

2.1.11 Reinforced Armour

Units with *reinforced armour* are protected by armour many times thicker than that found on most armoured vehicles and have extremely robust internal construction too. Because of this they still take their saving throw when hit by macro-weapons (see 2.2.6). In addition, they may re-roll a failed save against any non-macro-weapon hit, including those inflicted during an assault.



The Leman Russ has reinforced armour

2.1.12 Scouts

Some units are noted as being *scouts*. These units are trained to operate on their own, scouting ahead of their formation to seek out the enemy. Scout units only have to remain within 20cm of another unit from their formation, rather than 5cm as would normally be the case. In addition, scouts are trained to spread out so they can cover a wide area, and so have a 10cm zone of control. Note that these abilities only apply to scout units and cannot be transferred to other units in the same formation or transport units carrying the scouts.



Space Marine Scouts

2.1.13 Skimmers

Some units are noted as being *skimmers*. These units are equipped with devices that allow them to hover a short distance above the ground, so that they can fly over terrain that would slow other units down. Note that skimmers do *not* follow any of the rules for aircraft in section 4.0.

Skimmers may ignore dangerous or impassable terrain as they move. They may not land on impassable terrain, and if they land in dangerous terrain they must take a dangerous

terrain test. Skimmers may also move over other friendly units as they move, but may not land on them. Enemy units and zones of control affect skimmers normally.

A skimmer may declare that it is *popping up* at the start of any action that it takes, including sustained fire actions and when the skimmer goes onto overwatch. Popping up counts as movement for the purposes of triggering enemy onoverwatch. A skimmer that has popped up is assumed to be flying high enough that intervening terrain does not block the line of fire between the skimmer and any enemy units, and vice versa. A skimmer that has popped up, 'pops down' at the conclusion of the action. Skimmers on overwatch do not pop down until after they make their overwatch attack. Skimmers with a transport capacity may not embark or disembark units while they are popped up, and if they are destroyed while they are popped up then any units on board will be destroyed with no save.

Skimmers may always choose to use their firefight value in an assault, even if there are enemy units in base contact with the skimmer. If they do this then the enemy must use their firefight value also. This represents the skimmer lifting off the ground out of reach of enemy ground units.



Land Speeders are skimmers

2.1.14 Sniper

Some infantry units are noted as being *snipers*. Roll separately when attacking with a sniper unit. If they hit, the attacker can choose which enemy unit is hit from those within range and in the line of fire of the sniper unit. In addition the target suffers a -1 save modifier.



Imperial Guard Snipers

2.1.15 Supreme Commanders

Supreme Commanders represent high-level command units. They count as commanders and leaders (see 2.1.2 and 2.1.8 respectively). In addition, each supreme commander unit in the army allows a player to re-roll one failed initiative test (of any type) once per turn.



Space Marine Supreme Commander

2.1.16 Thick Rear Armour

Some armoured units are noted as having *thick rear armour*. These vehicles have equally thick armour all round, and so ignore the -1 save modifier when they are caught in a crossfire.



Land Raiders have thick rear armour

2.1.17 Teleport

Units with the *teleport* ability can appear suddenly on the battlefield, either because they have access to technological or arcane devices that allow them to be instantaneously moved from one place to another, or because they are capable of hiding extremely well and then suddenly appear 'as if from nowhere'.

Formations where all of the units have this ability may be kept off the table, and can appear at the start of any turn. Simply place the unit anywhere you like on the table at the start of any turn, before determining who wins the strategy roll. The unit must be placed within 5cms of another unit from its own formation if there are any already in play. So, for example, if a whole formation teleported into play then the first unit could be placed anywhere, but any other units would need to be placed within 5cms of a unit that had already been placed. All units must be placed outside enemy zones of control. If placed in dangerous terrain then a dangerous terrain test must be taken when the unit is placed on the table.

Teleporting is an inherently dangerous business, and doesn't always go as planned. To represent this roll a D6 for each unit that teleports into play. On a roll of a 1 the formation that the unit belongs to receives a Blast marker.



Terminators can teleport

2.1.18 Walkers

Some vehicle units are noted as being *walkers*. They are able to negotiate dangerous terrain more easily than other vehicles. To represent this they may re-roll any failed dangerous terrain tests.



Space Marine Dreadnoughts are walkers

II • SPECIALIST UNITS

2.2 SPECIALIST WEAPONS

Some exotic or powerful weapons have special abilities to represent their unique properties. Any special abilities that apply to a weapon will be noted in the line for the weapon on a unit's datasheet.

2.2.1 Anti-aircraft Weapons

Some of the weapons used in Epic are used in dogfights or to defend against aircraft. These weapons are collectively known as anti-aircraft weapons in the rules. Anti-aircraft weapons have an 'AA' firepower value, in addition they may also have AP or AT firepower values. For example, the Space Marine Hunter has a Firepower value of AT 4+/AA 5+. The rules for carrying out AA shooting are described in full in the rules for Aerospace Operations (see 4.0).



The Hunter is armed with anti-aircraft weapons

2.2.2 Disrupt

Certain weapons are designed to disrupt enemy formations as much as kill enemy troops. To represent this weapons noted as having the disrupt ability inflict a Blast marker on an enemy formation for each hit they inflict instead of for each kill they inflict. Note that the hits inflicted by disruptor weapons are saved for normally. Any units that fail their save are removed as casualties but do not cause a second Blast marker to be placed on the target formation.



The Valkyrie's rocket pods have the disrupt ability

SPECIAL RULE

Re-rolls

Sometimes the rules will allow you to re-roll a dice if you don't like the first score you rolled. Re-rolls always apply to single dice rolls – if you rolled more than one dice then the re-roll will only allow you to re-roll one of them unless the rules specifically say otherwise. No dice may be re-rolled more than once (you can't re-roll a re-roll) and you must accept the result of the second roll.

2.2.3 Extra Attacks

Some assault and close combat weapons are noted as having *extra attacks* (+x). Units armed with these weapons receive a number of extra attacks equal to 'x' during an assault. For example, an assault weapon noted as having 'extra attacks (+2)' would allow the unit using it to make two extra close combat attacks in an assault. Sometimes the entry will specify a dice roll rather than a fixed number. For example, a weapon that had 'extra attacks (D3)' would attack D3 times each time it attacked. Extra attacks can apply to shooting attacks, close combat attacks, and firefight attacks.



Ogryn close combat weapons get extra attacks (+1)

2.2.4 First Strike

Weapons with the first strike ability attack first in an assault. Resolve the attack and inflict damage for the weapon before any enemy units make their attacks. This may result in some enemy units being destroyed before they can attack. If the ability is noted for a weapon with extra attacks (see 2.2.3) then only the extra attacks get the first strike ability; otherwise it will count for all close combat attacks if noted for an assault weapon, or all firefight attacks if noted for small arms. If opposing units both have first strike weapons then all first strike attacks are resolved simultaneously and their results applied to both sides before other attacks are resolved.



Rough Rider hunting lances have the first strike ability

2.2.5 Ignore Cover

Some weapons are noted as being able to *ignore cover*. These weapons are designed to negate the effects of cover, either by blasting it apart or simply bypassing it altogether. These weapons ignore cover to hit modifiers, and negate infantry cover saves.



The Hellbound can ignore cover

2.2.6 Macro-Weapons

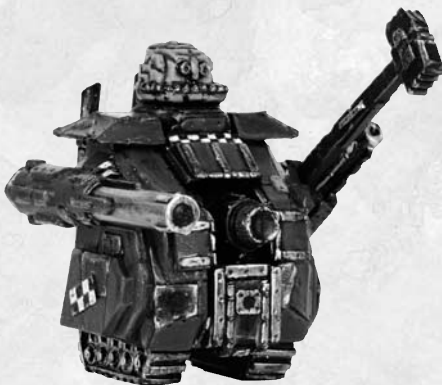
Some of the weapons used in Epic are absolutely huge. These weapons are collectively known as *macro-weapons* in the rules. Only units with reinforced armour or invulnerable saves receive a saving throw against hits from a macro-weapon (see 2.1.6 and 2.1.11). Any other type of target that is hit does not get a saving throw at all. The following rules explain in detail how this works, but as long as you bear in mind the principle that macro-weapons cancel saves then you won't go too far wrong.

Shooting Attacks: Macro-weapons that can be used for shooting attacks do not have AP or AT firepower values. Instead they have a 'macro-weapon' value (abbreviated to MW). For example, the volcano cannon mounted on an Imperial Warlord Titan has a fire value of MW 2+. You should roll to hit normally when firing a macro-weapon. Macro-weapons can affect any type of target, so the volcano cannon mentioned above would hit any type of target on a roll of 2+. Only units with reinforced armour or invulnerable receive a saving throw against hits from a macro-weapon (see 2.1.6 and 2.1.11). Any other type of target that is hit does not get a saving throw. Cover saves are also negated, although the -1 to hit modifier does apply. Units on board a transport vehicle destroyed by a macro-weapon only receive a save if they would have one were they hit by the macro-weapon directly.

Barrages: Work out the macro-weapon's barrage normally, except that any units hit do not receive a saving throw unless they have reinforced armour or an invulnerable save.

Assaults: In an assault, some small arms and assault weapons that are allowed extra attacks can have the macro-weapon ability as well. In this case the macro-weapon ability *only* applies to the extra attacks.

Allocating Hits: If an attacking formation scores hits both with normal weapons and weapons with the macro-weapon ability, then the opposing player must allocate and make any saves for the normal hits first, and then allocate and make any saves for the macro-weapon hits. Hits from macro-weapons can only be applied to units that are in a position to be hit by a macro-weapon (eg, are either in base contact or within weapon range of an attacking enemy unit armed with a weapon with the macro-weapon ability).



The Supa-Stompa is armed with macro-weapons

2.2.7 Single Shot

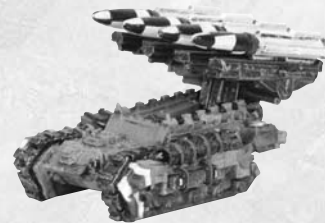
Some weapons are noted as being *single shot*. These weapons may be used once per battle and may not then be fired again. You may want to record which single shot weapons have been fired on a piece of scrap paper.



The Deathstrike Missile is a single shot weapon

2.2.8 Slow Firing

Some weapons are noted as being *slow firing*. These weapons must take one turn to reload after they have fired. This means that if they fire on one turn they may not fire during the next. We have found that the best way of remembering this is simply to turn the unit around to face away from the enemy when it fires, and then turn it back again when the formation is activated again next turn, but you can use any method you prefer.



Manticore Missile launchers are slow-firing

2.2.9 Titan Killers

Some weapons are noted as being *Titan Killers*. Enemy units hit by such weapons may not take a cover or armour save, even if they have reinforced armour. In addition, further special rules apply if the target unit is a war engine (see 3.0). In all other ways, Titan killers are treated as macro-weapons.



The Shadowsword's Volcano Cannon is a Titan killer

II • SPECIALIST UNITS

2.3 SPECIALIST TRAINING SCENARIOS

"Why, if it isn't Brother Marius. The injuries from the last training exercise have healed well I see. And that new bionic eye should prove most useful for this next exercise. Tell me, how many hours have you had on Land Speeders up to now?"

Veteran Sergeant Kesser

There are a huge number of specialist units and weapons covered by the Epic rules, far too many to be covered in a single training scenario. However, the following variant of the Combined Arms training scenario can give you a taste of what effect specialist units can have on the game. In order to play the scenario you will need access to the models you used for the Combined Arms scenario, plus models for the units shown on the datasheet section below.



2.3.1 Specialist Training Scenario

Space Marines are organised into companies led by hugely experienced and respected commanders, and backed up with heavily armoured Land Raiders and highly agile Land Speeders. These specialised units allow a force to be tailored to carry out any mission the company may be called upon to undertake.

Force Alpha: Two formations each with six Space Marine Tactical units and three Rhinos, plus one formation of four Land Raiders and one formation of five Land Speeders. One Tactical formation may include a Space

Marine Commander and the other may include a Space Marine Dreadnought. The force has a strategy rating of 5 and all formations have an initiative value of 1+.

Force Beta: Two formations each with six Space Marine Tactical units and three Rhinos, plus one formation of four Land Raiders and one formation of five Land Speeders. One Tactical formation may include a Space Marine Commander and the other may include a Space Marine Dreadnought. The force has a strategy rating of 5 and all formations have an initiative value of 1+.

Gaming Area: Set up a playing area approximately 90-120cm square. Set up any scenery you have in a mutually agreeable manner. You can set up as much or as little scenery as you like, but try to make sure that you have at least a couple of hills and either a built-up area or some woods for the troops to hide behind or take cover in. Place an 'objective counter' in the very centre of the battlefield (a coin will do just fine). Then each player must set up another objective 45cms away from any other objective. There should be a total of three objectives once they have all been set up.

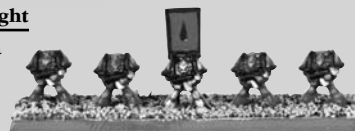
Deployment: If one player sets up the scenery then his opponent can choose which table edge to deploy on. If you set up the scenery together then dice to see who gets the choice of edge. The other player sets up on the opposite table edge. You must deploy all of your units within 15cms of your table edge.

Special Rules: All Space Marine units use the 'Know No Fear' special rule (see the special rules accompanying the core rules training scenarios).

Victory Conditions: You capture the objective if you have a unit within 15cms of it in the end phase and your opponent does not. To win the game you must capture two objectives and hold them both for one full game turn.

SPACE MARINE COMMANDER

Type	Speed	Armour	Close Combat	Firefight
Character	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Weapon	Range	Firepower	Notes	
Power Weapon	(base contact)	Assault Weapons	Macro-weapon, Extra Attack (+1)	
Smite	(15cms)	Small Arms	Macro-weapon, Extra Attack (+1)	



Notes: Space Marine Commanders can be one of four types: Captains, Librarians, Chaplains, or Supreme Commanders. All are *Characters* and have an *Invulnerable Save* and the *Leader* abilities. Captains also have the *Commander* special ability. Librarians have a *Smite* attack (listed in the weapon section above). Chaplains are *Inspiring*. Supreme Commanders have the *Supreme Commander* ability.

SPACE MARINE LAND RAIDER

Type	Speed	Armour	Close Combat	Firefight
Armoured Vehicle	25cm	4+	6+	5+
Weapon	Range	Firepower	Notes	
2 x Twin Lascannon	45cm	AT4+	-	
Heavy bolter	30cm	AP4+	-	



Notes: Reinforced Armour. Thick Rear Armour, Transport (may carry one Terminator unit OR two of the following units: Space Marine Tactical, Devastator & Scout units)



SPACE MARINE LAND SPEEDER

Type	Speed	Armour	Close Combat	Firefight
Light Vehicle	35cm	4+	6+	5+
Weapon	Range	Firepower	Notes	
Multi-melta	15cm	MW5+ and Small Arms	Macro-weapon	



Notes: *Skimmer, Scout.* The Multi-melta can shoot and be used to confer the macro-weapon ability to the unit's firefight value.

SPACE MARINE DREADNOUGHT

Type	Speed	Armour	Close Combat	Firefight
Armoured Vehicle	15cm	4+	4+	4+
Weapon	Range	Firepower	Notes	
Missile Launcher	45cm	AP5 +/AT6+	—	
Twin Lascannon	45cm	AT4+	—	
OR				
Power Fist	(base contact)	Assault weapon	Macro-weapon, Extra Attacks (+1)	
Assault Cannon	30cm	AP5 +/AT5 +	—	



Notes: *Walker.* Note that a Dreadnought may be armed with either a Missile Launcher and Twin Lascannon or a Power Fist and Assault Cannon, not all four weapons!